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The
Fort Erie Times
www.forterietimes.ca
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Shoe Box Project helps abused women 11

New health promoter at Bridges 14

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EKRIS DUBE/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

The Fort Erie SPCA held its annual Pet Pics with Santa Friday, an event with plenty of animal-related activities for the family to enjoy. French bulldogs Milo and Louie stopped by to visit with Santa, the Grinch and Ebenezer Scrooge.

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Impaired driving charge laid in collision causing death of Fort Erie man

Niagara Regional Police have charged a 51-year-old Mississauga man with impaired driving causing death after a 39-year-old Fort Erie man was killed in a head-on, two-vehicle collision early Saturday morning in Welland.

He was arrested at the scene and also charged with impaired driving causing bodily harm in connection to the serious injuries suffered by the driver of the other vehicle, a 34-year-old Fort Erie woman.

The man, who was driving a grey Ford Escape west on Townline Tunnel Road, suffered minor injuries.

The victim, a passenger in an eastbound red Ford Focus driven by the woman, was pronounced dead at the scene. The woman was taken by air ambulance to hospital in Hamilton with undetermined injuries.

A collision that closed a section of Townline Road Tunnel Road until Saturday afternoon happened at 12:54 a.m. near the intersection of Keefer Road.

Three paramedic crews, an Emergency Medical Services supervisor as well as an air ambulance flight crew assisted police and Welland fighters at the scene of what one first-responder described as a "sad and horrible call."

Paolo Deluca, 51, from Mississauga, is charged with impaired driving causing death and impaired driving causing bodily harm. He was released from custody following a bail hearing.

The name of the deceased is not being released by the NRP.

The woman continues to recover in hospital.

An investigation being conducted by the collision reconstruction unit is ongoing. Witnesses are asked to call police at 905-688-4111, ext. 5500.

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Golf course property possible site of large residential subdivision

KRIS DUBE
Special to the Times

The proposed residential development of a local golf course built in 1933 could be "the largest we've had to date in town," according to Fort Erie planning staff Kira Dolch.

Two new residential projects received approvals from the local government at Monday's council meeting.

Public meetings were held for each, one of them involving a plan for subdivision at the current Rio Vista Golf Course on Crooks Street. Council approved a report saying the course will remain open for the next couple of years, with long-term plans to develop the site.

The property is currently private but has been sold to a development group planning to build the neighbourhood of Fort Erie Hills. It involves a proposed total of 769 dwelling units on 36 street blocks, with an estimated population of 1,876, based on a formula of 2.44 persons per household.

Council approved receiving a report for informational purposes on a proposed bylaw amendment, beginning the process of the large subdivision becoming a reality. Ward 1 Coun. George McDermott says the development is exciting for the area, which he represents.

"When opportunity knocks, we have to do what we can," said McDermott.

Ward 2 Coun. Stephen Passero said a project of this scale will create new amenities for the community, such as grocery stores and other services.

It was also recommended that council direct staff to provide a further report, based on comments heard at Monday's public meeting, which brought input both in favour and against the project.

Some of the input was directed at the history of the golf course and the desirability of the area's current low-density population. Criticism directed at the proposal included lack of affordable housing and environmental issues, such as the wetlands on the property.

Council also approved phase three of Village Creek with a subdivision agreement and pre-servicing approval.

The plan proposes 53 single detached units, and six blocks of townhouses with a total of 22 units.

A development at King and Albany Street, which has been on hold since 2009, has also been rejuvenated and if approved, will result in 16 townhouses built on the property, adjacent to former County Fair Mall site.

The developer wants to revise the plan to include three lots with one block of seven townhouses, one block of six townhouses and one block of three more for future development.

The total number of townhouses will be reduced from 17 to 16 and other elements of the plan will remain the same, says the report approved by council.

Another development, the Deerwood Lane condominium project, currently has draft plan approval for three blocks of four townhouses and one block of six townhouses. The developer wants to change the plan to include three blocks of four townhouses and two blocks of three townhouses. Council decided to put its decision on hold until more information can be provided on drainage issues in the area of the development, located on the south side of Dominion Road, east of Prospect Point Road North.

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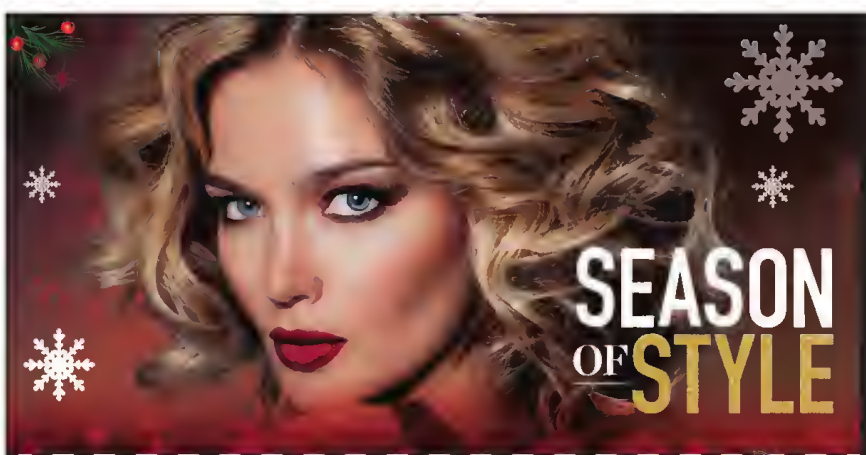

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Region's tax hike jumps to 2%

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

Regional council is exceeding its own budget guidance, introducing a one per cent tax increase to support unspecified future infrastructure needs.

That comes in addition to the one per cent operating levy increase approved earlier this week, setting taxpayers up for a total two per cent tax hike.

The move was made in a tight 12-11 vote during the final budget review committee meeting of the year Thursday.

The full 2017 budget will come before council Dec. 8 for approval.

A dedicated levy for infrastructure has been recommended by staff annually since 2012 to address the Region's infrastructure gap, which is now estimated to be about $185 million.

That number is determined by comparing 2017-2026 capital budgets against the nine-year capital forecast for levy-supported programs.

The infrastructure levy has gone unapproved in the past.

Because the Region is not providing adequate financing annually to its levy-supported capital fund, it is resulting in a heavier reliance on debt financing to meet infrastructure needs.

If the trend continues, the Region runs the risk of seeing infrastructure projects delayed, resulting in higher costs to complete the work in the future and a decline in service levels during the delay.

The infrastructure levy is intended to be part of a long-term strategy to ensure reserves are adequate to meet future needs, said acting corporate services commissioner Jason Burgess.

Welland Coun. Paul Grenier was in favour of the concept but opposed to the timing of the recommendation.

"We should have probably dealt with this in June and July as a prelude to our conversation on capital," he said. "We need to be able to sell this to the lower-tier partners and the public at large with an earmark of where it would go."

Grenier felt if the dollars were being set aside for a specific purpose, whether to increase road standards or increase the number of affordable housing units, it would be an easier sell for the public.

"If we levy it without a plan to spend it, we would lose the credibility of moving forward with this policy."

As it stands, the one per cent increase, amounting to about $3.25 million, was not allocated to any specific infrastructure projects and instead will be put into a reserve.

St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik, who felt the increase was a move in the right direction, said the business community has shown support for a tax levy for infrastructure.

He called it an important step in showing the public the Region is making "prudent financial decisions."

But similar to Grenier, he felt it important to show taxpayers where the dollars are being invested.

Sendzik felt it was an opportunity to "show the public this isn't just a tax grab, but a targeted investment strategy that will allow us to reduce the debt."

Burgess said the infrastructure levy is only part of a strategy the Region will develop moving forward to address its infrastructure gap.

"What's presented tonight is in no way a complete solution," he said.

Over 20 years, the total amount that would be raised by the annual infrastructure levy is $71 million.

"That is less than half of what we spend on average in one year," he said of capital expenditures.

"If equate it to my personal fitness level, I may need to hit the gym for 20 or 30 hours in a week. I'm not going to do that, but by going to the gym for one hour, it's better than not going at all. That's what this one per cent levy (is doing)."

TURN TO PAGE 5

Niagara Regional Council meeting.

Redekop warns money needs to be put aside for future infrastruture projects

TURN FROM PAGE 4

A debt, reserves and asset acquisition strategy will have to be developed over multiple years to address the situation, he said, calling the introduction of an infrastructure levy a "first step."

Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop said the Region finds itself in a predicament because it doesn't have the updated asset management plan that identifies the condition and lifespan of its various pieces of infrastructure.

That plan is expected to be delivered to council early in the new year.

"It's very prudent for us to start to recognize that we have to put money aside," he said.

"I didn't realize we were in such a poor debt-to-reserves situation. It's unfortunate, because we cannot underestimate the importance and the significance of having sound infrastructure for our efforts to grow and prosper in Niagara."

Redekop said council's decision to move forward with no tax increase for 2016 "probably was a big mistake" that could end up costing taxpayers in the long run.

The additional one per cent increase is both a "drop in the bucket," as well as a wake-up call, he said, calling it necessary for Niagara's future.

Niagara Falls Coun. Bart Maves, who in the past was opposed to the introduction of the infrastructure levy, rallied for its approval.

Staff have worked over a number of years to address the Region's funding gap that once sat at $400 million but has been whittled down to $185 million, he said.

"I think they've come an awful long way," Maves said, adding he wanted to make sure staff did their due diligence and looked to find all operational and capital efficiencies before again turning to the taxpayers.

He feels that has been accomplished and if staff believes an infrastructure levy is still needed, then that may be the best way forward.

With the Region requiring no tax increase for 2016, there's "some flexibility" to introduce the infrastructure cost in 2017, he said.

Welland Mayor Frank Campion made an unsuccessful attempt to see the recommendation deferred until the asset management plan is completed.

The concept of an infrastructure levy should have been included in the consultation process, he said, adding he felt it had been thrown onto the end of budget deliberations after months of working toward guidance set by council.

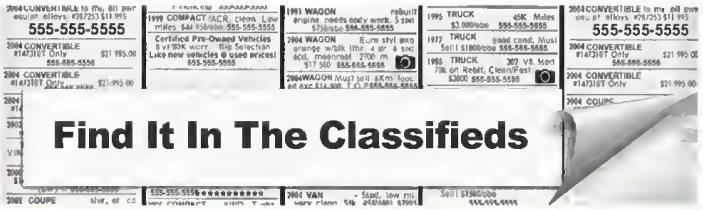
Grimsby Mayor Bob Bentley saw support in his resolution asking that when the asset management plan is presented to council, a secondary report also be prepared to show where those new levy dollars will go.

mfirth@postmedia.com
Twitter: @mfirthStandard

HOW THEY VOTED:

Yes: Annunziata, Bentley, Caslin, Edgar, Hodgson, Jeffs, Luciani, MacGregor, Maves, Redekop, Rigby and Sendzik.

No: Barrick, Baty, Burroughs, Campion, D'Angela, Grenier, Heit, Petrowski, Quirk, Timms and Volpatti.



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Two sides to massive development proposal

Fort Erie can remain a small, quiet town and embrace growth at the same time.

At Monday's council-in-committee meeting, a detailed glimpse was given by staff into a residential development project being touted as the largest in Fort Erie history, on more than 80 acres of land, at the current Rio Vista Golf Course.

It is proposed to create 769 new dwelling units, while staff estimates it will generate $6.6 million in development charges.

A public meeting was held, a requirement of the Planning Act, and there were all types of positions delivered, many of them the ones you'd expect – traffic, environmental concerns, and the ever-popular 'that's not why I moved here two years ago' mindset.

Not that this is an unfair argument and that new residents don't have a right to voice their opinions, but perhaps it's too early to start the paranoia that a new neighbourhood is going to keep the surrounding area awake all night.

Do people who live on Rosehill or Kraft Roads complain about Crescent Park and how much their lives have been disrupted since the large residential area was built, one much larger than the one up for consideration in Ward 1?

This isn't an exact comparison but consider the similarities – look at things with an open mind and maybe even think of the people in the downtown area who don't have their own full-service gas station or grocery store. Maybe it's time they have access to these amenities, which have been much more accessible in other residential areas of Greater Fort Erie for decades.

It will be sad to see Rio Vista Golf Course no longer be a part of the town's identity, but if anyone wants to convince the developer who now owns the historic track to sell it back to you so you can maintain it in its current state for many years to come – start making some phone calls.

The course will remain open for "a couple of years" according to the staff report approved by council on Monday, so this season, dust off your clubs and make sure you play a few rounds at the nine-hole course on Crooks Street and try to beat the best score you've had there in your golf life.

Just some advice.

-Kris Dube, Special to the Times

Do you remember?

A big thanks to the anonymous caller who told us about last week's photo taken at the Stevensville Christmas parade in 1981. The fire fighter to the far left is Roland Daku and Angela Minor is the little girl who is probably letting Santa know all the things on her Christmas wish list. Continuing the lead-up to Christmas; this week's photo was taken in 1980. If you know either of these two little girls; please call the Museum at 905-894-5322 or send us an e-mail museum@forterie.ca.

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FOLLOW US ON...

Busy month wraps up year at The Sanctuary

Hello, December/ Christmas time! How did you sneak up so fast? We just have one more month of 2016 left before we slide into a brand new 2017. May 2017 bring you all health, happiness and love.

I must admit, it is getting harder every year to find Christmas gifts I feel are truly gifts given with the receiving person in mind. I know I am not alone when I say I don't feel like purchasing things just for purchasing them. I'd like to give joy and more so time spend on activities that can warm one's heart.

In that spirit, how about gift certificates for classes or concert tickets for this Christmas season?

Before I get to this though, let me just tell you how amazing the theatre show was put on by Down The Rabbit Hole Theatre Company. The young actors and instructors put their heart and soul into this fantastic and creative play. Just a joy to see. Thank you so much. You all rocked it.

The lovely ladies from Down the Rabbit Hole Theatre Company offering new Act Out! classes starting Feb. 27. The Kidlet class (ages four to sox) will run from 4 p.m. to 4:45 with the Mezzo class (ages seven to nine) to follow from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Blacklight and Movement class for children seven and up is scheduled from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Major class (ages 10 and up) will be acting out from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Registration includes 10 weeks of Act Out sessions, three performances, a headshot of your child and two complimentary tickets to the final performance (value $20). Please emailDowntherabbitholetheatreco@gmail.com to ensure your spot or for more information.

How about a month worth of zumba classes for only $40 for your zumba-loving person on your gift giving list?

The Fort Erie Arts Council is offering a new Kidoodle Kids Art Class starting on Tuesday, Jan. 10, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Little artists aged six to 12 will enjoy this class. Six weeks will cost $75 with all material included or $70 for members. Please email feacclasses@gmail.com for more info and to register.

Are you an amateur musician 35-plus years old with the heart and soul of a rock star? We have just the thing for you. Become part of a band and polish your skills in a caring and sharing environment - eight sessions will give you structured weekly practice, discussions and presentations for an introduction fee of $150. Best of all, you get to show off your talents to a live audience. Check out www.oldmanrockband.com or email andy@oldmanrockband.com to register or for more info. Meet Andy Wason on Tbursday, Jan. 5 at 8 p..m at The Sanctuary – Centre for the Arts. This class is scheduled for Jan. 10 at 8 p.m.

Our beautiful Susie is giving your mid section a workout with her belly dancing classes on Wednesdays. Beginners dance between 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m, while intermediates follow at 7:30 p.m.

The 16-week class will start on Jan. 18 and costs $156 or $15 for a drop-in class. Please email Susie at safirahipdance@yahoo.ca to register and for more information

The Fort Erie Arts Council presents the new Winter Watercolour & Acrylic Painting Class on Thursday, Jan. 12 to Feb. 16, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. The very talented Melani Pyke will lend a hand while you are exploring painting with water-based media this winter. This is a great class for beginner to intermediate artists. Divided into two three week sessions, you'll dabble first in water colour and move then to acrylic. The six– week class costs $90 including supplies (10 percent discount for FEAC members). Please email feacclasses@gmail.com for more info and to register.

Please give Toronto-based Pretzel Logic a warm welcome on Dec. 9 as these 10 seasoned musicians caress your ear canal with tunes by Steely Dan. Dedicated to playing the lavish chords and sexy grooves so typical of Steely Dan's music, this tribute band is the next best thing. Pretzel Logic's ensemble includes two Juno award winners as well as Fort Erie's own Dave and Tim Johns. Doors open at 8 p.m., the show starts at 9 p.m. Limited seating will be available. Get your tickets for $25 at Brimstone Brewing Company, A1 Appliances and on www.ticketscene.ca

Looking for a fun Christmas show? We got you covered. On Dec. 10, the fantastic Sultans of String are inviting you to their Christmas Caravan.Celebrate the season with a trip around the world at The Sanctuary – Centre for the Arts when two time JUNO nominates and CFMA winning Sultans of String play originals, world music inspired classics, and seasonal favourites to warm your heart on a cold winter's night. From fiery fiddle tunes to a Caribbean sleigh ride, this surprising and delightful holiday fiesta heats up when Sultans of String bring their signature sound to well known gems such as Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, The Huron Carol (with translated Indigenous lyrics), Little Drummer Boy, a Turkish twist on Greensleeves, A Charlie Brown Christmas, not to mention a Gypsy-Jazz inspired Django Christmas and a Flamenca-fuelled Jingle Bells. A feast for tbe ears. Doors open at 7 p.m., the show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are available for $25 at Brimstone Brewing Company and on www.ticketscene.ca. This is a seated show.

Join Sharlene Styles on Sunday, Jan. 29 for an hour of feel good Yoga to get the juices flowing followed by a delicious and healthy brunch and a flight of local beer courtesy of Brimstone Brewing Company and Crave Local Fresh. See you there. Doors open at 9:30 am, the event starts at 10 am. Tickets for this event are available on www.ticketscene.ca for $40. Great Christmas present.

The music of The Eagles is timeless and since it would be impossibly difficult and not to mention pricey to bring the original band to the Sanctuary – Centre for the Arts, we decided to go with Hotel California. This band has been touring since the 1980s delighting hundreds of thousands of Eagle fans to this day. Don't miss out on this amazing show on Feb. 17. Doors open at 7 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m. This is a seated event. Tickets are available at Brimstone Brewing Company and www.ticketscene.ca for $35.

For more information about what is going in at The Sanctuary – Centre for the Arts visit www.thesanctuaryarts.org or like us on Facebook. If you'd like to know what is happening at Brimstone Brewing Company, please check out www.brimstonebrewing.ca.

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School mourns loss of popular teacher

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

Students and staff at Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School are mourning the death of a popular teacher.

Gregory Shaubel, 45, died suddenly on Friday.

Shaubel taught at the Ridge Road school for 15 years. He taught various subjects including English, geography and history.

Principal Fred Louws said Shaubel was well-loved by students and staff.

"He was one of our most enthusiastic school supporters and really embodied the Blue Devil spirit here at RCBHS," he said. "Whatever the event was, students could always count on (him) being involved with his unique brand of enthusiasm."

On his school webpage, Shaubel wrote, "If you take a class with me, I would like to think that I not only teach you the subject material itself, but I will also help you mature as a person and prepare you for the next stages of your life.

"I believe that any student, if motivated properly, can rise to the challenge and be successful."

Shaubel coached various sports teams at the school including girls volleyball as well as boys baseball and girls softball.

"He was an excellent coach and dedicated many hours of his own personal time to supporting his students in developing their skills and achieving their best," Louws said. "He will be sadly missed by us all."

He was also the driving force behind the school's entry in the annual Fort Erie Santa Claus parade, often planning the float in August. He rode the float with students in the Nov. 17 parade.

Former student Tiyanna Schooley said Shaubel was a dedicated teacher and a mentor to many students.

"If you knew Greg Shaubel you were very lucky. If you had Mr. Shaubel as a teacher you were even luckier. Mr. Shaubel was and always will be a blessing to the lives of so, so many people."

Last month, Shaubel was one of seven staff members participating in the annual Movember Foundation of Canada campaign.

His online campaign page stated he was raising funds to help the foundation reduce the rate of male deaths from prostate and testicular cancer as well as to promote mental health and suicide prevention.

"Help me stop men dying too young," the page read.

Donations began flooding in with the news of Shaubel's death. As of Monday afternoon, donations had reached almost $1,800, well above his goal of $600.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

Greg Shaubel

Social workers and youth counsellors are at the school this week to speak with students.

"It is a great loss to our school and the community," Louws said.

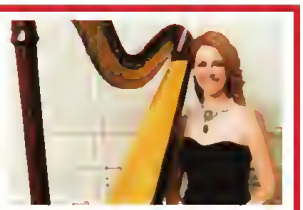
Visitation will be held today at Davidson Funeral Home in Port Colborne from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m to 9 p.m. A funeral service will be held at the Crystal Ridge Community Centre in Crystal Beach Wednesday at 11 a.m.

alangley@postmedia.com

Twitter: @nfallslangley

Christmas in Stevensville

Stevensville United Brethren Church,
2536 Stevensville Rd., invites you to kick off the Christmas season with us at two special events:



Friday, Dec. 9, at 7:00 pm
Free concert of Christmas music by acclaimed harpist, Ms. Chantal Dubé.

Saturday, Dec. 17, at 3:00 pm
Live Outdoor Re-enactment of the Christmas Story
--with real animals!
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When nature calls - Ontario's only lizard

Skink time.

Skink? That's right. Josh Feltham working on his doctorate while teaching at Sir Sanford Fleming College was our dynamic speaker at the Bert Miller Nature Club recently. Josh wanted us to know about Ontario's only lizard, the five-lined skink.

Our skink has been classified as a species at risk since 2009. Josh is doing his best to preserve this Carolinian lizard. His presentation was outstanding. He asked us many questions as he progressed.

The common five-lined skink is a small lizard up to 8.6 cm with a black or grey body and five cream-coloured stripes along its back.

Yes, this is the little guy who has the expendable tail. It is bluish in colour. When attacked its blue tail breaks off and it wiggles. The attacker goes after the wiggling tail and the skink survives and eventually grows another tail.

Josh showed us where they live in our province. There are two main areas for them. Josh works the main area along the southern area of our Canadian Shield. There they are found underneath rocks on open fairly flat bedrock in forested areas. Sun heat is necessary for their survival.

In southern Ontario (Carolinian Canada) they are found around Lake St. Clair and yes, Pelee and Rondeau.

These skinks feed on insects, snails and worms. They are very agile hunters. Josh in his research has monitored closely certain routes. How he does this is unique. He places a little tab on a captured skink. He does this on as many as he can. He then is able to monitor them throughout the season.

Respect these little guys. No pets and don't turn over many rocks. Josh would say, "Leave them alone."

PHOTO SUBMITTED

The five-lined skink, considered a species at risk, is Ontario's only lizard.

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Health Corner

Digital Everything and Digital Dentistry

One thing that amazes me is how everything is now digital. Music, movies, pictures, and even books! I am thinking in a few years, people won't remember paper books anymore.

Even dentistry is going digital. It is not new that many dental offices now have digital x-rays. It is also very common that many dentists work with digital charts. But do you know that now we can make a digital crown?

Last week, I discussed the need for crown restorations for structurally weak teeth. However, I did not mention that a conventional crown procedure is not the easiest job. For those who remembered getting a crown, it is a bit of an ordeal. First a dentist has to prepare a tooth for the porcelain. Then, the dentist takes a rubber impression or two to capture the details of the prepared tooth. Then the patient receives a temporary crown glued with temporary cement. After that, the dentist and the patient have to wait often 2 weeks for the crown to be fabricated by a lab technician. Then the dentist glues the crown to the prepared tooth.

Dr. John Inigo

It is a very important procedure but do you know that now many crowns can be designed and fabricated digitally within an hour after the preparation rather than 2 weeks? The technology is called E4D. Let me explain how this works for patients and dentists.

Rather than taking impression, the digital video camera is used to capture the image. Then the dentist can load the image to a computer and design the crown exactly how he or she wants. Then the file goes to a milling unit (I called it a robotic lab tech) and then the crown is fabricated often within 30 minutes. Sounds too far-fetched? Well, as you can imagine, most patients who see the E4D crown procedures for the first time, are blown away by the technology.

Sometimes it is scary how much more technology will be available for dentistry. Well, actually it is very exciting.

Dr. John Inigo is a practicing general dentist in Fort Erie and Ridgeway, Ontario. He can be reached at Inigo Bertie Dentistry and Inigo Ridgeway Dentistry, 905.871.2903 and 90.894.5555. For further information and discussion, please visit his office at www.inigodentistry.com

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STEAM offered at library for kids Kindergarten to Grade 8

Homework Help is such a simple name, but at tbe Fort Erie Public Library, it represents an amazing array of opportunities for learning and for growing.

Eacb day of the week in this free, after-school program, students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 explore a different element of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, music and math) with fun, extra-curricular activities.

On Monday we do science experiments, such as how to make a fizzy bath bomb, or how to blow up a balloon witb a water bottle.

On Technology Tuesdays we learn to code with robots, and create circuits with Snap Circuits and LittleBits.

Engineering Wednesdays are all about building challenges – who can build the highest tower with marshmallows and toothpicks, or make the longest paper chain with one piece of paper. On Art Thursdays we paint, sculpt, and draw – sometimes with the help of professional artists.

Finally, on Fridays we try our hand at math and music challenges.

Kids are welcome to come every day, or only on the days that interest them. And every day, tutors are available for reading and homework help for each student that needs it. The Centennial branch of the library is humming with activity, fun and learning each weekday afternoon from 3:30 until 5:30 p.m. (5 p.m. on Fridays).

Speaking of tutors, there is always a demand for adults and secondary school students who are interested in helping others in this program that is as exciting as it is worthwbile. Please contact Karissa Fast, Children and Teen Librarian, or Janine Warren, Homework Help Coordinator, for more information. Ask for either of them by contacting the library.

This is the last chance for adding to our hat and mitten trees and our book baskets before all the donations are wrapped and shared with children and young people in need in our community. Our thanks to everyone who has given of their time and talent; we see the beautiful hats and mitts, and the wonderful books and we know that many youngsters will be delighted to receive them. Friends of the Library will be sorting and wrapping these items on Tuesday, Dec. 13, starting at 4 p.m.

Saturday's family movie matinee at the Centennial branch is Ice Age: Collision Course with the voice talents of Ray Romano and many others stars in a children's animated comedy adventure just right for a December afternoon.

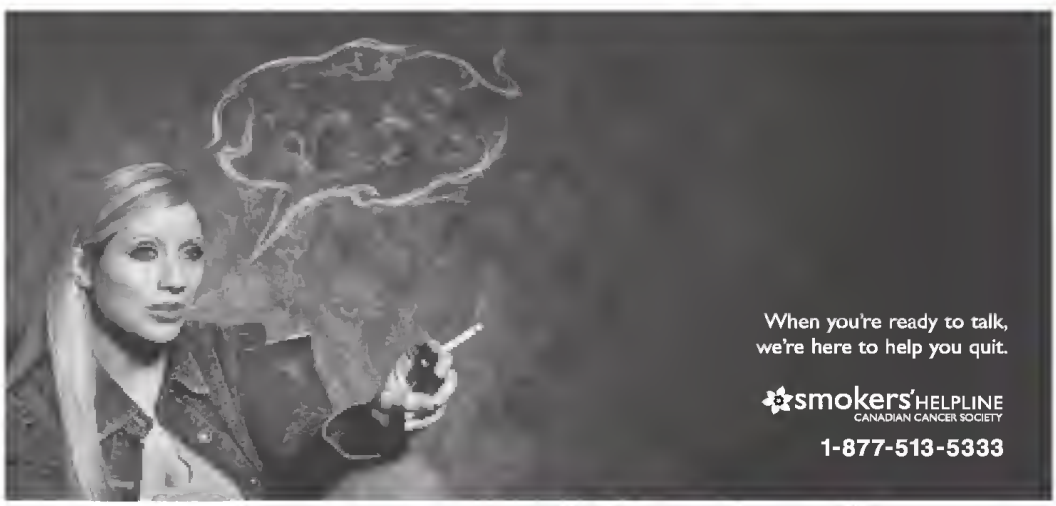
The Crystal Ridge branch will host the first session of Robots at the Library for ages 7 and up, starting at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday.

It will be a Harry Potter Christmas at the Centennial branch of the library on Monday afternoon, Dec. 12. All ages can enjoy a Hogwarts holiday, with crafts, games, snacks and trivia filling the room with magic.

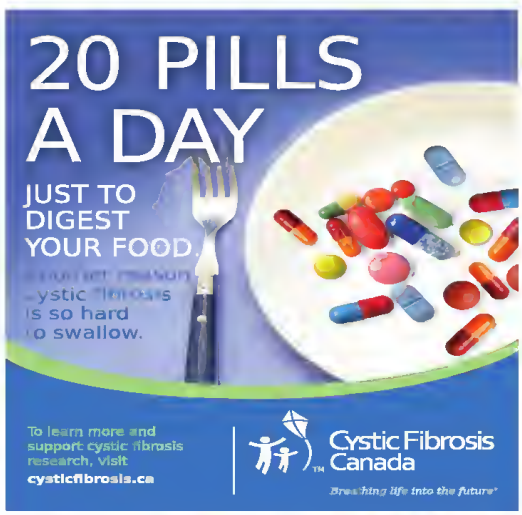
Chris Sergnese from the Job Gym will be at the Centennial branch on Wednesday, Dec. 14 from 1 to 3 p.m., to help job seekers create their own resume, using the library's laptop lab. Any adult or teen is welcome to this free program. It is a good idea to bring a USB key (memory stick) to save your work.

The film for adults next week is Indignation, based on Philip Roth's book about his experiences in a small Ohio university in the mid-1950s, at odds with the administration, grappling with anti-Semitism and sexual repression and pining after a troubled girl. The movie will play at the Crystal Ridge branch on Tuesday, at 2 p.m. and at the Centennial branch on Thursday, at 6:30 p.m.

Amy Roebuck is the community services coordinator at the Fort Erie Public Library.



Funding provided in part by the Ontario Tobacco Strategy, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care



Shoe boxes filled with items for women support shelters at Christmas

KRIS DUBE
Special to the Times

Alison Earl learned about the Shoe Box Project on a morning TV show five years ago, and it immediately struck a chord with her.

The current Ridgeway resident was living in Montreal at the time and immediately after the episode aired, she was in contact with one of the charity's founders and lead organizers, Caroline Mulroney, daughter of former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Since then, Earl has been the cause's co-ordinator in South Niagara – collecting shoe boxes filled with luxury items, hygiene products and other goods to be handed out through Women's Place, a shelter supporting females in Niagara.

There is also a program in St. Catharines and boxes are collected for Gillian's Place, also a women's shelter.

Earl says a fund has also been created to support women in Aboriginal communities and needs corporate sponsorships.

During the 2015 holiday season, about 140 boxes were collected in south Niagara and delivered to Women's Place, which the regional co-ordinator hopes made a difference.

"It lets them know people in the community are thinking of them," said Earl.

Local donors are glad to support a charity that enriches the lives of people nearby, she added.

"Everything stays in the community it's collected in – people really like that when they bring me a shoe box, knowing it's going to a woman in Niagara."

Anyone interested in donating a box is asked to fill it with about $50 in merchandise. There are four drop-off locations in Greater Fort Erie: F8 Hair Salon on Jarvis Street, Dr. Ordinario's office on Garrison Road, Boggio and Edwards Pharmacy on Ridge Road and Yoga Joy on Derby Road in Crystal Beach.

Earl is also willing to pick up filled shoe boxes.

Each box requires an inspection and she asks that people who donate wrap the top and bottom of the package separately.

Donations can be dropped off until Dec. 18.

Gift cards in small denominations are also accepted, she said.

In Canada, there are 45 communities participating in the Shoe Box Project.

For more information, visit www.shoeboxproject.com/niagara.

Earl can be reached at niagara@shoeboxproject.com.

KRIS DUBE/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Alison Earl collects shoe boxes filled with items for women to help those in shelters at Christmas.

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PHOTOS BY KRIS DUBE/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Horse and carriage rides were enjoyed by many families and groups, along Ridge Road last Saturday, during the Spirit of Christmas in Fort Erie.

Chayce Morency, Cole Hilmayer and Carleigh Hilmayer getting creative Saturday at the Fort Erie Arts Council's Golden Forest, an elaborate holiday-themed display created by local artist Kim Hall.

Students from St. George's Catholic School sing Christmas carols at Pacific Productions last Friday, kicking off the 21st Spirit of Christmas.

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NIAGARA'S CELEBRATION DESTINATION

New health promoter working at Bridges health centre

KRIS DUBE
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

There is an incredible sense of collaboration around the local community, says the new health promoter at Bridges Community Health Centre in Fort Erie.

Ashley Chiarello has been with the team for the last two months and is looking forward to bringing her past experience while taking in a new challenge with the role.

She looks forward on projects surrounding access to dental care, including an upcoming survey on the issue that will circulate in Fort Erie, Wainfleet and Port Colborne, through the CHC's involvement with the Niagara Dental Health Coalition.

Bridges is also partnered with the Town of Fort Erie, Niagara Region, and the Niagara Prosperity Initiative on Niagara Rideshare, a regional service allowing people to find transportation by connecting with nearby drivers.

"Those are two things that are new to me and I'm really excited about them," she said in an interview this week.

The CHC team includes doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, dietitians, diabetes educators, a mental health nurse, a social worker, health promoters and a community health workers and more.

They offer programs and peer support groups on smoking cessation, diabetes education, mental health, chronic pain management, stress management, exercise and healthy eating.

Bridges focuses on the needs of seniors, children and youth, newcomers to Canada, and families or individuals with low incomes – in the communities of Fort Erie, Port Colborne and Wainfleet.

A native of Sault Ste. Marie, Chiarello became familiar with Niagara during her time as a student at Brock University.

She spent the last seven years with Positive Living Niagara, a St. Catharines-based organization that provides support and service to HIV-positive individuals.

Before this, she had a job in food security in the Bahamas.

"Those are two things I can bring to the role, too," she said.

She says her new post is the "cherry on top" of her career so far and that she's looking forward to serving the local community.

"The scope of work, and where I get to do it, is the best," she said.

Bridges is located at 1485 Garrison Rd. in Fort Erie and 177 King St. in Port Colborne.

Ashley Chiarello is the new health promoter at Bridges Community Health Centre. Kris Dube/Special to the Times

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES

2017 WASTEWATER MASTER PLAN AND POLLUTION PREVENTION CONTROL PLAN STUDY UPDATE

CONTRACT # ISE-16P-SWRMPL16

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie is inviting proposals from qualified Consulting Engineering Firms for Professional Engineering Services for the 2017 Wastewater Master Plan and Pollution Prevention Control Plan Update Study. The Study will include sanitary sewer system flow monitoring , hydraulic sewer model development, application of the model to determine future system needs, and the review and development of strategies to reduce system extraneous flow.

Sealed proposals clearly marked as to contents will be received Randi Martins, Manager, Procurement, Finance and Risk, Municipal Centre, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, Ontario, **until 11:00 a.m. local time on:**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21st, 2016

NOTE: The Town of Fort Erie posts all formal competitive bid opportunities on the Town's Biddingo Landing Page www.biddingo.com/forterie. Alternatively, proposal documents may also be obtained or viewed commencing, Friday, December 2, 2015, in the Infrastructure Services – Engineering Department at Town Hall.

For further information, please contact Robert D. Judd, P.Eng., Town of Fort Erie Municipal Centre, rjudd@forterie.ca or (905)871-1600 ext. 2412.

Just In Time For Christmas

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Weekdays - 8:30am to 5:00pm.

All passes are payable via cash, Interac, Visa or Mastercard.

ATTENTION ALL MOTORISTS

Residents are reminded that **no overnight winter parking** is permitted in the Town of Fort Erie between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. from November 1 through March 31 of the following year. The Town's By-law Enforcement Officers will be enforcing Traffic By-law No. 2000-89. **The fine for this offence is $40.00 and in addition, your vehicle may be towed at your expense.**

Melissa Warren, Nino D'Ambra, Maria Costa and Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop cut the ribbon at a grand re-opening of Nino D'Ambra Hair and Aesthetics last week.

Fort Erie hair salon re-opens in original location

KRIS DUBE
Special to the Times

Owners of a local hair salon and spa that was removed from its home for eight months due to a flood are grateful for their clientele's patience.

A year ago, Nino D'Ambra Hair and Aesthetics suffered form a flood that started on the second floor of the Garrison Road business and caused severe damage to its ground floor.

"The main floor had to be completely gutted out," said co-owner Maria Costa at a grand reopening last Wednesday.

Following the flood, Costa and her business partner Nino D'Ambra rented a space across the street from their hair salong, until last week when life returned to normal at their 231 Garrison Rd. address, where they have been for 19 years.

Now, the salon offers a very "gender-friendly" environment with manicures and pedicures for both men and women.

Two areas have been appropriately named the 'Man Cave' and the 'Diva Cave.'

"We didn't want to make it too feminine or too masculine," said Costa.

At last week's open house, the business donated a cheque for $12,000 to Wellspring Niagara, a charity Costa and D'Ambra have supported for five years with a popular fashion show held annually in Fort Erie. This year's edition was held in October.

Since its first run, the show has raised $51,000 for the charity, which offers free social, emotional, psychological, informational and spiritual support to individuals living with cancer and their families.

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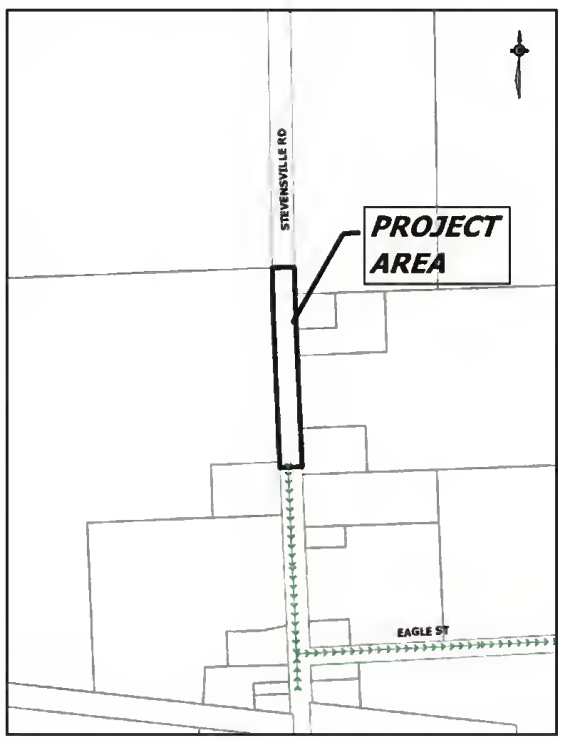
NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL WORKS

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT NO. ISE-16T-SRSE16
STEVENSVILLE ROAD SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION

Please be advised that construction activity is planned to start for the 112 m extension of municipal sanitary sewer along Stevensville Road. The sewer extension is required to provide sewer service for lands within the existing urban area boundary but without sewer frontage. The project duration is expected to be from November 21 until December 23, with final reinstatement works being completed in the spring. This section of Stevensville Road will be subject to periodic lane restrictions during the work.



If you have questions or concerns about the project, please contact:

Jason Schooley, P.Eng.
Upper Canada Planning
& Engineering Ltd.
261 Martindale Road, Unit 1,
St. Catharines, Ontario, L2W 1A1
Tel: (905) 688-9400 x226
Mob: (905) 651-2616
Fax: (905) 688-5274
Email: jschooley@ucc.com
Website: http://www.ucc.com

or

Robert D. Judd, P.Eng.
Municipal Engineer - Infrastructure Renewal
Infrastructure Services, Engineering Division
The Town of Fort Eire
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ÊKRIS DUBE/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

The Comfort Inn, at 1 Hospitality Dr. in Fort Erie, is hosting a toy drive on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 12 to 2 p.m., collecting items for Niagara Area ChildrenÕs Assistance Program. There will be appearances by Santa and Mrs. Claus, food, games and prizes, a free breakfast for the first 30 people to show up and make a donation, a raffle for a getaway to anywhere in Ontario, and much more. Looking ahead to this weekendÕs event are Sarah Rees, (back left) with manager Anne Matiuschuk, Lizzie Koabel (front left), Felicia Perrault and Ashley Coones.ÊThis is the first year for the toy drive, which is expected to become an annual event.

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Starters: $2.00 per person

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• Wild salmon, chive and caper twice baked mini potatoes • Spinach and walnut spanakopita
• Roasted fennel and sausage stuffed mushrooms (can we modified for vegetarian option)

Salads: $6.50 per person

• Caesar salad with bacon lardons, sourdough croutons and shaved parmesan
• Arugula salad with shaved fennel, goat cheese and lemon vinaigrette • Beet and citrus salad

Soup: $6.50 per person

• French onion with mushroom with house garlic croutons and Gruyere

Sides: $7.00 per pound

• Sweet potato purée • Potato and celery root gratin • Brown butter and almond green beans
• Roasted heirloom carrots with orange and brown sugar • Kale and cheddar sourdough stuffing
• Traditional holiday stuffing with sausage and apples • Creamy cauliflower mashv
• Broccoli with ultimate cheese sauce • House cranberry sauce

Extras: Price determined upon order

• Classic Canadian Tourtiere • House made cheese or meat Lasagna • Deep Dish Quiche
• Sweet potato and cheddar tart with pecans

Christmas cookie bags and boxes $10 per dozen

Desserts: Price determined upon order

• Apple Pie • Lemon Tart • Coconut cream pie • Dark chocolate and orange ganache tart
• Pumpkin pie with gingerbread crust and spiced cream • Eggnog cheese cake

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Marina Parkes, Community Living Fort Erie fundraising raffle volunteer, Ron Mace, the winner of Westjet Gift Of Flight prize and Marg Fidler, Community Living manager of community development, are delighted with the success of the recent Christmas in Mexico event - Community Living for the money raised and Mace for the generosity of WestJet.

Christmas in Mexico event raises $38,000

KRIS DUBE
Special to the Times

Fort Erie Community Living raised $38,000 at its recent Christmas in Mexico event.

The funds will be used to assist with the purchase of a wheelchair accessible van for the agency.

Executive director Maureen Brown says the event was "extremely successful, exceeding all expectations," thanks to a 10-person volunteer committee.

More than 50 gift baskets were donated and a raffle for a round trip to any scheduled WestJet destination generated $5,525 at the fundraiser.

The prize was won by Ridgeway resident Ron Mace.

"I am very impressed with this airline's generosity. This is one of the nicest things they could have done for this wonderful organization," he said.

Brown expressed thanks from Community Living Fort Erie to their major sponsors Boggio and Edwards, Scotiabank and Erion Insurance, as well as "the many supportive community businesses who sponsored tables and donated prizes."

Next year's event theme will be Canadian Winter Wonderland, she added.

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Seeds planted to help children orphaned by AIDS

BOB TYMCZYSZYN
Postmedia Network

As she stepped up to the lectern at Silver Spire in St. Catharines Saturday evening, Illana Landsberg-Lewis brought a message of hope and thanks to people at the Seeds of New Hope: World AIDS Day Benefit Concert in St. Catharines.

She is often asked, "How do you do this every day? There is so much sadness, so much death. It is apocalyptic on so many levels."

Her reply is that the hope comes from the work done by community-based organizations such as Ubuntu Niagara.

She commended the Niagara organization for its 10th year of support.

"There are people in this community that have been extraordinarily dedicated to the cause of turning the tide of AIDS in Africa for a decade," she said.

"These people have raised funds every year, without someone coming from the foundation just out of their own sense of compassion and solidarity with the Africans and communities who are doing the work and engaged in the struggle for survival."

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Nyanyas of Niagara have been fundraising since 2007 for the Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign.

Landsberg-Lewis, who is executive director of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, said the community-to-community connection across Canada has raised almost $70 million for African communities in the past 12 years.

CONTINUED > PAGE 24

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BOB TYMCZYSZYN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The keynote speaker at a benefit concert Saturday at the Silver Spire Church in St. Catharines was Illana Landsberg-Lewis who heads the Stephen Lewis Foundation, which included the Grandmothers to Grandmothers program which raises money to help grandmothers in Africa raising their grandchildren orphaned by AIDS.

It's that time of year again!
As always, we are looking to the public to help in purchasing an unwrapped gift for a boy or girl infant to 14 years.
We invite the public to use our Kinsmen Barrels placed at convenient drop off locations listed below between November 20th and December 23rd. (gift cards welcome)
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14 million children in Africa being raised by their grandmothers

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 22

"Where the difference is being made and felt is at the community level. Small grass roots and community-based organizations which are now mid-sized having grown over the last decade or two."

Sub-Saharan Africa, where AIDS has hit the hardest, is where the community response has been so powerful for the foundation.

"It's a particularly potent and important message and reality," she said.

"It's communities here of grandmothers and women, of people who are concerned and care about both the suffering and extraordinary hardship that the Africans have overcome but also appreciate their dignity and tenacity to overcome the AIDS pandemic and resurrect the quality of life.

"As the grandmothers say, we didn't raise our children for the grave."

Recent reports estimate that 37 million people, roughly the population of Canada, live with AIDS around the world.

Landsberg-Lewis said there are 14 million orphaned children in Africa and the grandmothers, having buried their adult children, are now raising them.

She said there are mobile health clinics now when there didn't use to be any. And in a very remote area of Uganda 400 kids who were orphaned by AIDS are now back in school, being nurtured, and 7,000 grandmothers who have come together around them to support them.

"In a world that is swinging in the direction of less compassion, I think this is a moment where we have to dig quite deep. As Canadians, we have an extraordinarily good foundation to make sure that we're not infected by this isolationism, insular way of thinking, and understand that people are suffering a terrible calamity. But they are the ones working so hard to overcome it, and we should be able to stand with them as one can."

Landsberg-Lewis said there is a shift now in the international community, with a recent United Nations Assembly report focused on getting treatment for women and girls at the epicentre of the pandemic.

"I think there is a real light at the end of the tunnel even without a cure, which is not on the immediate horizon."

"When people get on the antiretroviral (therapy), it reduced the viral load of HIV where they are 96 to 99 percent unlikely to pass it on to a partner. That brings AIDS to its knees," she said.

"What it doesn't do is address 30 years of decimation and unravelling of a community. We've got a long way to go."

Still, Landsberg-Lewis is clearly optimistic: "We're looking at a reality where we will see an end to this."

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MARKET VALUE: $27,877
COSTCO DISCOUNT: $1,000
ADDITIONAL BROCK DISCOUNT: $832
YEAR END DISCOUNT: $500

BROCK SALE PRICE: $25,545 + HST & LIC (FREIGHT & AIR TAX INCLUDED)

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STK NO.: 171211

1.5L ECOBOOST ENGINE/6-SPD AUTO/AIR P.WINDOWS & LOCKS/SPEED CONTROL/TILT WHEEL & MORE

MARKET VALUE: $29,828
COSTCO DISCOUNT: $1,000
ADDITIONAL BROCK DISCOUNT: $802
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ADDITIONAL BROCK DISCOUNT: $3,577
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The organizers of the 2016 Santa Claus Parade thank everyone whose time, talent, dedication, and commitment made the event a tremendous success.

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Watch our Facebook Page for Details on the 2017 Parade

BOB TYMCZYSZYN/THE STANDARD

A group of protestors mill about the entrance to St. Catharines city council Monday.

City council calls for NPCA audit

KARENA WALTER
Postmedia Network

St. Catharines city council is urging the province to immediately begin an investigation and forensic audit of Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

Councillors voted unanimously Monday night to send a letter to Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Minister of Natural Resources with the request.

"This is not casting blame," said St. Andrew's Coun. Joe Kushner, adding it's about opening the issue.

Residents in the packed council chambers broke into applause after the vote in favour in the motion, put forward by Port Dalhousie Coun. Bruce Williamson. About 35 people rallied in front of city hall prior to the meeting holding signs with slogans including "We want a transparent Niagara" and "NPCA audit needed."

Council voted to send the letter after presentations by NPCA chairman Bruce Timms, Welland MPP Cindy Forster and resident Ed Smith, the latter who asked Niagara Region council to call for an audit of the conservation authority in May and was turned down.

Smith said residents should know if they're getting value for their money witb the NPCA. He wants a forensic audit of hiring practices and awarding of contracts.

A financial audit is mandated annually by the province. Smith said NPCA has been working very hard to avoid a higher level audit.

"I'm motivated because there's something wrong," he said when asked why he's doing what's he's doing.

Forster told council there seems to be the impression this is all about Smith, but she's been getting calls from concerned citizens about NPCA since 2013.

"I'm concerned the NPCA and its charitable wing have been working very hard to avoid scrutiny," she told council.

Forster told councillors it is their right to ask for a review. She said the more municipalities that come on side, the more pressure they can put on the Minister of Natural Resources to call for a review.

AUDIT from page A1

But Timms told councillors a forensic audit is a waste of money.

He said NPCA is already audited and operational aspects are covered in minutes of board meetings which are publicly available.

"Why aren't you open to having a forensic audit?" Williamson asked Timms. "Why not open the books?"

Timms said that request bas not been received.

He said NPCA wants to be as transparent as possible. It has no problem if a member of the public wants to come and say what they want audited, but in most cases concerns can be answered in the minutes, be said.

Timms said the authority would rather spend money on trees and pollinator gardens than an audit.

He said regardless of how council was to vote, he would be pleased to present the scope of operations the authority does to council.

Before the meeting started, citizens gathered outside city hall's after-hours entrance to support the Williamson motion.

"The NPCA definitely needs to have the light shined on it," said Candace Hawkins, one of the organizers from St. Catharines.

Hawkins said there were residents from Pelham, Welland and Niagara Falls in the crowd.

"They are all here because they are concerned about the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and the lack of transparency," she said.

Co-organizer Tami Lyons said they want transparency at all levels of government, not just at the Region.

"If they have nothing to hide, they sbould not fear an audit," Lyons said. "We're allowed to question what's going on."

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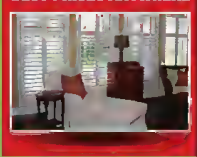
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Trio denied attempts to address Petrowski's controversial tweets

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

Three Niagara residents say they're frustrated over being denied the chance to publicly address a regional councillor's recent behaviour at an upcoming council meeting.

Perry Schlanger, Haley Bateman and Jeff Burch each applied as delegates last week in hopes of presenting to council their concerns about recent controversial social media activity by St. Catharines Coun. Andy Petrowski.

Each was told that under regional council's procedural bylaw, they were not permitted to speak because there was no item on the Dec. 8 agenda pertaining to the issue.

But after it was learned last Tuesday that a motion to reconsider the biring of an integrity commissioner was coming forward, Schlanger and Burch each re-applied to speak to that issue.

The Region's integrity commissioner, in place to police council's behaviour, was scrapped in February 2015.

Regional Chairman Alan Caslin announced last week, though, he will bring the issue forward for reconsideration at Thursday's meeting.

Schlanger has since been added to the agenda to speak to the integrity commissioner issue, but was told he cannot touch on his Petrowski concerns.

Burch received the same response, but declined to be included because he feels the two topics are too intertwined and cannot be separated.

He's hopeful council will suspend its procedural bylaw to allow him to speak Thursday.

On Nov. 24, the president of the local B'nai Israel congregation called on Caslin to censure Petrowski over an anti-Semitic video the councillor posted on Twitter days earlier.

Petrowski — who has since removed the tweet in question — has denied he intended any attack on the Jewish community.

After the incident was brought to light, Burch, executive director of Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre, wrote a letter to council on behalf of the organization asking that Caslin take steps immediately to censure Petrowski by removing him from all regional committees, boards and commissions.

REGION from page A1

Burch asked that the letter be added to the Dec. 8 council agenda and that he be permitted to speak to it, but said both requests were denied.

When he learned the integrity commissioner issue would be on council's plate, he reapplied as a delegate, resubmitting his letter as well as a series of points related to the agenda item.

Burch received an e-mailed response from regional clerk Ralph Walton Friday afternoon stating Caslin had removed his delegation from the agenda and wished to speak with Burch by phone. No explanation for the removal was included in the e-mail.

The phone conversation that followed took place Monday morning.

Attempts by the Standard to reach Caslin for comment Monday were met witb a response from bis communications director Jason Tamming, who said the chairman was "under the weather with pneumonia and won't be making calls today."

Burch said Caslin told him he may be added to the agenda if a revised description of his delegation was sent, excluding any comments about Petrowski.

But it's a move he is unwilling to make, as he feels both issues go hand in hand.

"I can't agree not to talk about Mr. Petrowski, what he did, because that's what the whole discussion is about," Burcb said.

"I'll be ready to speak if council decides to put me back on the agenda."

Burch said he's concerned by the appearance citizens are being prevented from sharing tbeir views on what he feels is an important regional topic.

"I feel I have a right to speak and that it's important there be consequences for Mr. Petrowski's social media activity," he said.

"People should be able to express their frustrations. There should be consequences."

While Schlanger ultimately ended up on Thursday's agenda, he called the process to get there "frustrating."

He's been told he cannot stray from the integrity commissioner topic during his delegation, though he still wishes to address Petrowski's behaviour.

"I was told if I did, my presentation would be ended."

As required by the Region, Scblanger submitted a copy of the slide show he plans to present, composed of tweets he felt were offensive to the community from the councillor's Twitter account.

Tamming said it was with the support of Walton and the Region's legal counsel that Schlanger's slide show was deemed by Caslin to be "inflammatory and not in keeping with parliamentary decorum."

Schlanger feels like his voice is being stifled.

"It feels like I'm not being heard and council isn't getting the picture. I think they don't want tbe public to see what's going on."

It's a sentiment echoed by Haley Bateman, who says she has run into similar struggles.

Bateman, who represents a group of community-minded women who gather to discuss local issues, was disheartened by the obstacles she faced in trying to get on the council agenda.

She too hoped to speak to Petrowski's social media activity, which she said she's also attempted to raise with council without success in the past.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

Delegates still hope to express concerns about tweets to regional council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

Bateman is still in the process of applying to speak to the integrity commissioner issue in hopes of being added to the agenda.

With delegates hoping to speak about the councillor being denied, she feels residents are being given no avenue to express their concerns in a public forum.

She plans to be at Thursday's meeting and will be ready to speak should council grant her the opportunity.

Reached for comment about the situation, Petrowski provided an e-mailed statement to the Standard Monday saying he is "out of town on a personal matter."

"I trust that all delegation requests are being vetted in accordance witb our procedural bylaw to ensure fair and objective treatment," he said.

Calls to Walton for comment Monday were not returned.

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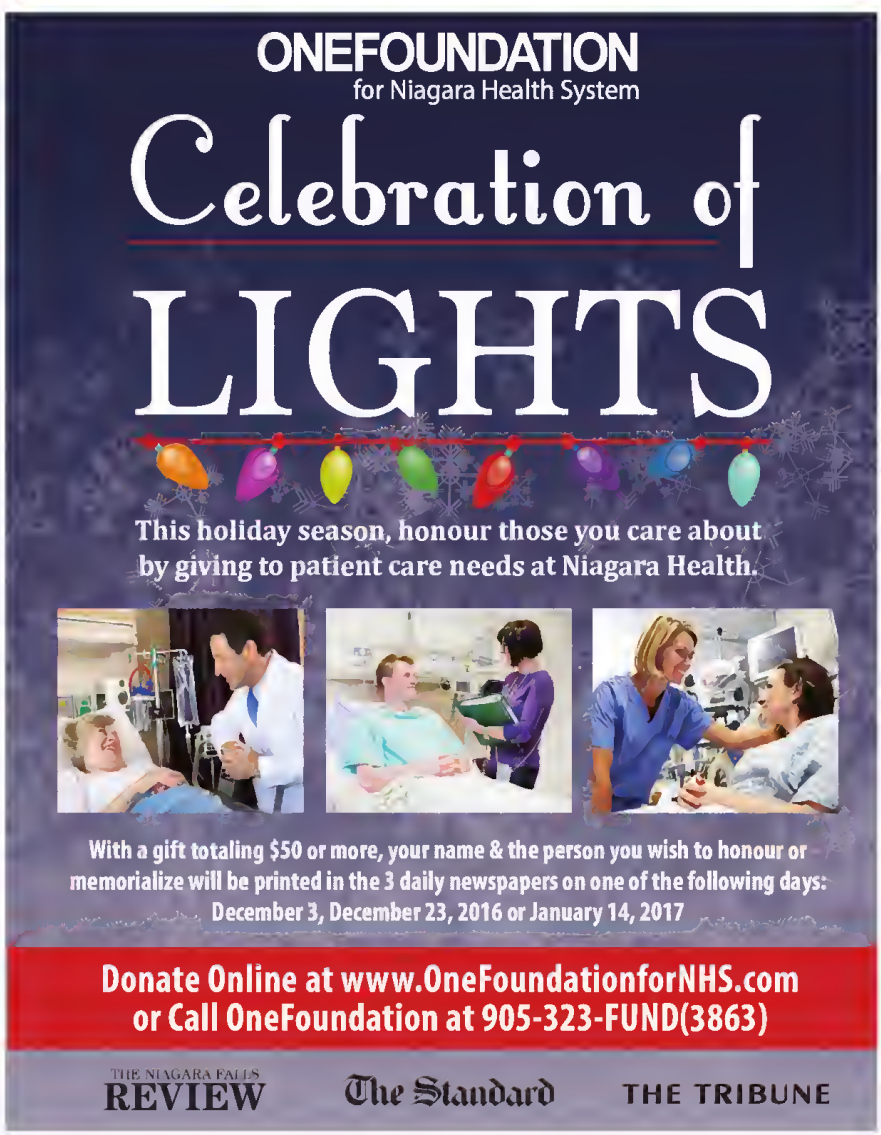

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Soccer club helps Fantasyland

ÉKRIS DUBE/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

On Saturday, the Greater Fort Erie Youth Soccer Club donated $500 to Santa's Fantasyland, an event organized by the Fort Erie Optimists and the Fort Erie Omettes. The club decided to make the donation to the organizers of the annual Christmas celebration when it was learned that some of its displays were lost in a flood earlier this year. Accepting the donation was Helen Kempster, delivered by GFEYSC administrator Jennifer Pennell-Ajie, Naomi Ajie, Noah Ajie and Cody Brown. Registration for youth soccer will open in January. On Dec. 10, there will be a Breakfast with Santa for $6 at the Fort Erie Optimist Club from 9 to 11 a.m.

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Meteors lose to Ancaster

KRIS DUBE
Special to the Times

A penalty-filled game on Saturday caused the Fort Erie Junior Be Meteors to have a short bench, playing a role in their 4-1 loss, says head coach Todd Clayton.

"We'll be working on some things to have us prepared for the next few games," he said.

The home team lost to the Ancaster Avalanche, with the lone goal coming from Bryan Zurowski, assisted by Bryce Martin and Andrew Somerville.

The Meteors were handed 45 penalty minutes and Ancaster was penalized for 33 minutes in the game, the second in a home-and-home series last weekend.

On Friday, the Meteors visited Ancaster and were defeated 4-2.

Scoring for Fort Erie were Daylon Groulx (assisted by Cail Cirillo and Bryce Martin) and Danny Katic (assisted by Bryce Martin and Brady Lee).

The Meteors visit the Thorold Blackhawks Thursday night and welcome the Niagara Falls at home on Saturday.

Puck drop is at 7:15 p.m. at the Leisureplex.

JOSEPH BURD/SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Fort Erie Meteor Cail Cirillo in action last Saturday at the Leisureplex assisted on the team's lone goal during a 4-1 loss to Ancaster.

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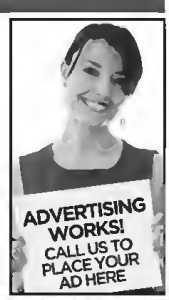

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Cards of Thanks

LISA EILEEN (FRETZ) MCINTYRE

The family of the late Lisa (Fretz) McIntyre would like to thank our family, friends and neighbours for the love and support shown to us during our time of loss. The family appreciated the many cards, flowers, food, fruit baskets and donations. A special thank you goes out to the caring and compassionate doctors and nurses at Juravinski Hospital. Thank you to all who attended Lisa's Party, this is what she wanted and she would have loved it. You need to know that you helped to make a sad time much brighter.

Thank You

Bob, Janis, and Laura Fretz

SMIRLE, Wilson -

The family of the late Wilson Smirle extend our heartfelt appreciation to all those that helped in so many ways to make the days surrounding our loving father and grandfather's passing a bit easier. We were touched by those who sent flowers, food, donations and cards. The friends and colleagues as well as extended family that came to show support at the funeral home allowed us to know that during such times, our sorrow was divided amongst others. In particular, we would like to thank Dr. Scher, the nurses and staff at Douglas Memorial Hospital and also to the staff of 373 Garrison Place for the outstanding care and compassion that was shown throughout his stay. Finally, to Benner Funeral Services, you are the people that make the difficult times a bit easier, thank you for being there through ours.

In Memoriams

Anne Marie Lambert (nee Cotton)
April 24, 1971 - December 10, 2009

Your cheerful smile, Your heart of gold,
You were the very best this world could hold,
Never selfish, always kind, these are the memories you left behind.
No verse, no flowers, no words can say,
How much we miss You every day.

Love Mom, Jackson and family

In Memoriams

Always remembered

HILL, Kelsey Lana -
Forever 13
Nov 17, 1998 - Dec 13, 2011

You left us brokenhearted
Not knowing what to do,
But now we find such comfort
In memories of you.

The legacy you left us
Was of happiness and love,
And that shines on forever
From the glorious skies above.

You brought joy and beauty
From the moment of your birth,
Now in Heaven you're an angel
Just as you were on earth.

Missed every second of every day xoxo
Love, Mom, Dad, Megan, Corrie and Nathan
www.TeamKelsey.ca

William (Bill) Maksinuk

In loving memory of Bill, who passed away one year ago, December 7, 2015.

You are always in our hearts.

Sadly missed by Ryan, Rodney, and Krista, Makayla, Avarey, and Mary.

In Memoriams

HILL, Kelsey Lana -

Although it has been 5 years since you left us, there isn't a day that goes by that our lives aren't touched by you in some way. Sometimes it is a song we hear on the radio, like Firework, Just The Way You Are, or Fearless and sometimes it's a happy thought or a photograph we see. Our lives are forever changed because of what you taught us about bravery, strength, courage and kindness. You have inspired and helped so many others and we will continue to fight the battle, alongside all of your family, as they continue to help others through teamkelsey.ca

With Love From Arica, Lucas, Amy, Zach, April, Andy and Diane

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In Memoriams

In loving memory of
Connie Thomson (O'Grady)
July 1960 - December 2009

O happy hours we once enjoyed
How sweet their memory still.
But death has left a loneliness
The world can never fill.

Mom, Dad,
Raymond, Gail, Matthew

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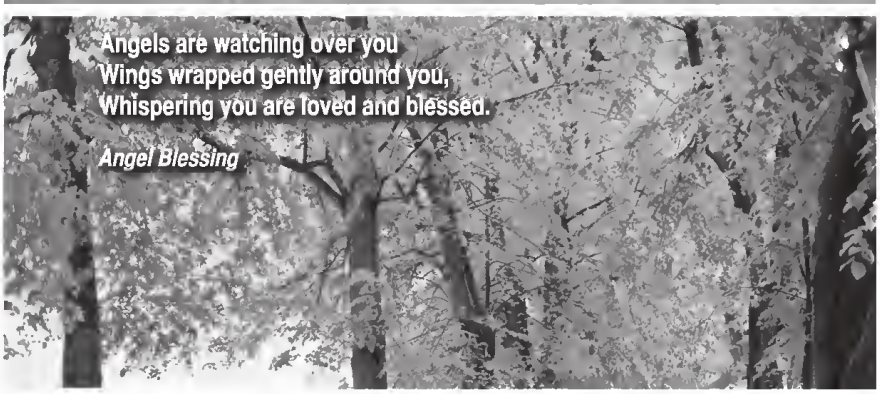

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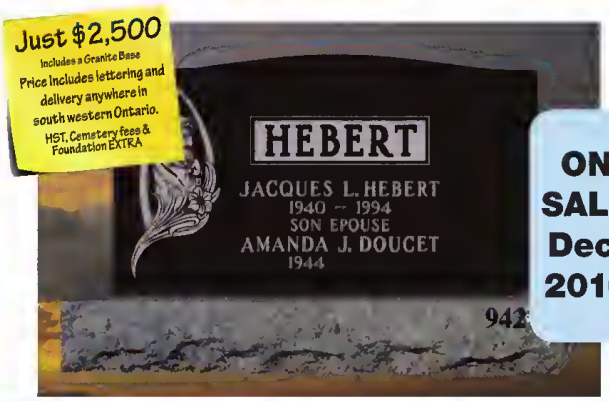

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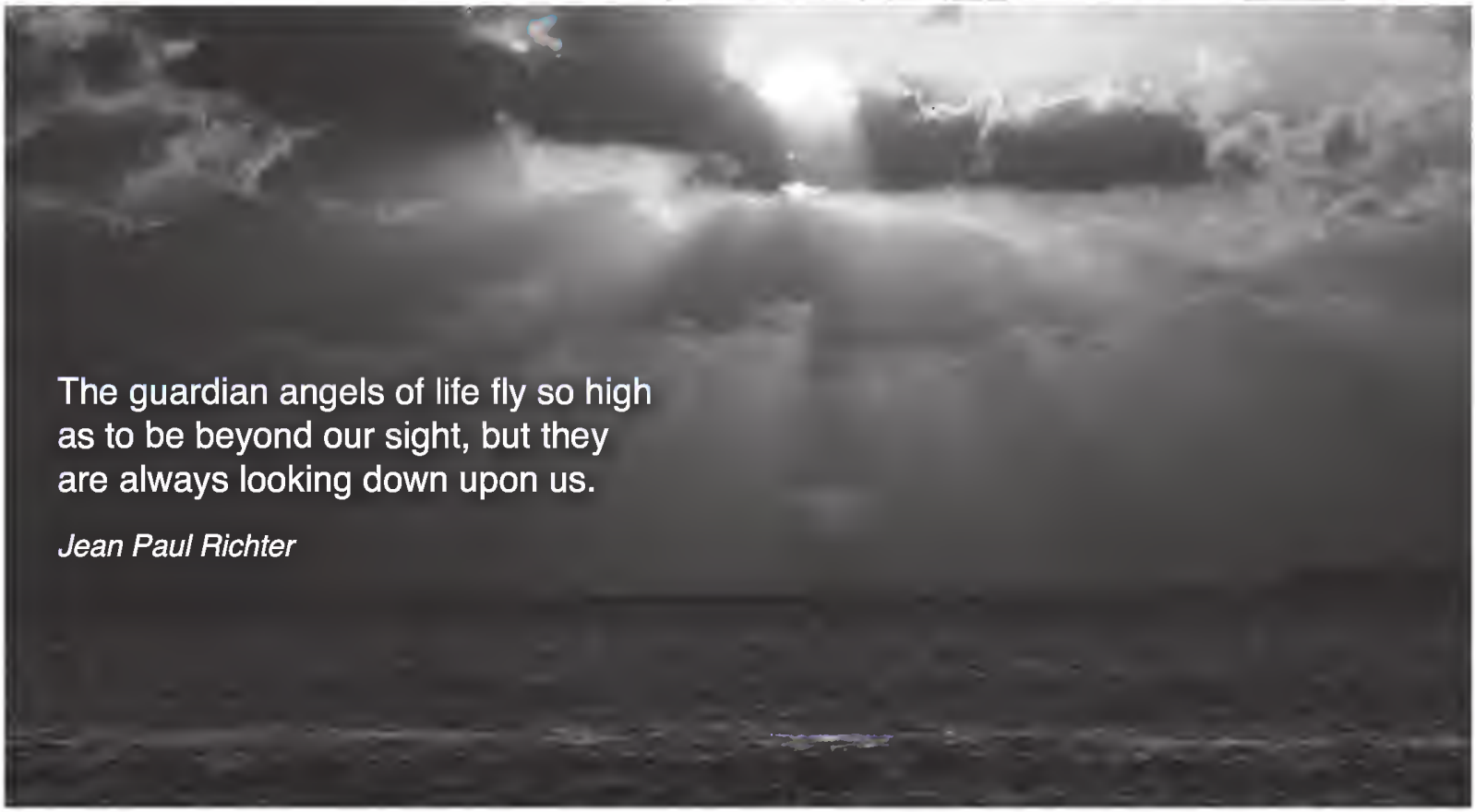

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